

My favorite cultural place.



The flag square.

This is one of the monuments that I like the most of the capital city of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, it is a very patriotic place of the capital since it is one of the places that occupies the most in the flag of my country and for that reason It is called the square of the flag, 4 years ago I worked in front of this place in a metal company and to see this monument in front is great.

The flag square is located in one of the busiest areas of the city of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), at the intersection of Avenues (27 de Febrero and Gregorio Luperón). It is a patriotic monument that seeks to pay tribute to one of the most important patriotic symbols of the nation. My flag of three colors that by the way is the only one in the world with the bible in the center.

The current Flag Square was built in 1978 during the government of Dr. Joaquín Balaguer as the center of a complex of public buildings including the headquarters of Ministry of Defense, the Central Electoral Board, the Institute for Price Stabilization (INESPRE), the Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) and the Center for Import and Investment, among others.

In February 1997, President Leonel Fernández reopened the monument after having undergone a remodeling, and renamed Flag Square (Plaza de la Bandera), replacing Independence Square, as it was originally called.

The design of the work was the responsibility of the architect Cristian Martinez and the engineer Andres Gomez Dubriel, who conceived the structure as a Latin cross, which can be clearly seen from the air, and in the center stood a replica of the Arc de Triomphe.

On both sides of the arch they were placed two angels representing the glory and honor, and center, a sculpture symbolizing the motherland, holding the fallen soldier, made by sculptor Juan de Ávalo.

In this Plaza, on January 26, 1979, Pope John Paul II celebrated the first Mass of a Roman Pontiff, held in American land, projecting the square worldwide. In this mass, Pope was facing the original painting of the **Virgin of Altagracia**, which was taken especially from the Basílica Catedral Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia for the occasion.

Primate Cathedral of America.

This is another of the places that I like in my country, it is in a very cultural area called the colonial zone and when I was a school boy they took us a lot to those places where the house where Christopher Columbus lived when he came to colonize our continent.

The **Cathedral of Santa María la Menor** in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo is dedicated to St. Mary of the Incarnation. It is the oldest cathedral in the Americas, begun in 1514 and completed in 1541. It is the Cathedral of the Archbishop of Santo Domingo who has the honorary title of **Primate of the Americas** because this cathedral was the first Catholic diocese and the oldest cathedral established in the New World.

I like to go with the family to this part of the city because there are many very cultural places and with a lot of ancient gothic architecture, the children really like this place.





The Count's Gate.

This is another of the places that I like in my country and which we used to visit a lot with the school when I was a child, it is called the door of the count and it is in the same colonial area, behind these walls are the remains of Juan Pablo Duarte and Diez, Francisco del Rosario Sanches, Ramon Matias Mella, the parents of the country, the founders of the Trinitarian, patriotic organization which led us to independence.

The Count's Gate was the main entrance to the fortified city of Santo Domingo (in present-day Dominican Republic), named to honor Governor Captain-General Bernardino de Meneses Bracamonte y Zapata, 1st Count of Peñalva, who during his tenure saved the city from a siege in 1655 by Englishmen General Robert Venables and Admiral William Penn amid the Third Anglo-Spanish War.

The gate is part of a structure called **El Baluarte del Conde** (The Count's Bulwark), a fort in Ciudad Colonial, the colonial area of Santo Domingo. The fort was part of a larger system of fortifications that ran along a defensive wall which surrounded Ciudad Colonial. The Altar of the Fatherland and Independence Park are located there.

Francisco del Rosario Sánchez, one of the Dominican Founding Fathers, proclaimed Dominican independence and raised the first Dominican Flag, on February 27, 1844.

My favorite Dominican food



My country is very busy with food, but one of my favorite dishes is one called the flag, which is rings, meat and beans.

I love the way my mom cooks because she is passionate about cooking, and Dominican women are famous for the flavor they put on their dishes.

Dominican Republic cuisine is predominantly made up of a combination of Spanish, French, indigenous Taíno, and African influences. Many Middle-Eastern dishes have been adopted into Dominican cuisine, such as the "Quipe" that comes from the Lebanese kibbeh. Dominican cuisine resembles that of other countries in Latin America, those of the nearby islands of Puerto Rico and Cuba, most of all, though the dish names differ sometimes.

Music.



In my country there is a genre that is native called Merengue and this is never lacking at parties, I really like it.

The merengue artists I like the most are Rubi Perez, El Torito, Fernandito Villalona and others.

Merengue is a type of music and dance originating in the Dominican Republic, which has become a very popular genre throughout Latin America, and also in several major cities in the United States with Afro-Latino communities.

Merengue developed as a music circa the middle of the 19th century of West African stylistic origins and has evolved and reached many different markets since. The genre was later promoted even more by Rafael Trujillo, the dictator from 1930 to 1961, who turned it into the national music and dance style of the Dominican Republic. In the United States it was first popularized by New York-based groups and bandleaders like Rafael Petiton Guzman, beginning in the 1930s, and Angel Vilorio y su Conjunto Típico Cibaeño in the 1950s. It was during the Trujillo era that the merengue "Compadre Pedro Juan", by Luis Alberti, became an international hit and standardized the 2-part form of the merengue.^[4] Merengue music was inscribed by UNESCO on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity^[5]

Internationally known merengue artists and groups include(d): Juan Luis Guerra, Toño Rosario, Fernando Villalona, Carlos Manuel El Zafiro, Los Hermanos Rosario, Bonny Cepeda, Benny Sadel, Los Toros Band, Sergio Vargas, Eddy Herrera, Wilfrido Vargas, Johnny Ventura, Grupo Rana, Miriam Cruz & Las Chicas Del Can, Joseito Mateo, Luis Ovalles, Angel Vilorio, El Cieguito de Nagua, Kinito Mendez, Ravel, Jossie Esteban y la Patrulla 15, Pochy y su Cocoband, Cuco Valoy, The Freddy Kenton Orchestra, Ramón Orlando, Sandy Reyes, July Mateo, Rasputin, Peter Cruz, Alex Bueno, Aramis Camilo, Jochy Hernández, Dioni Fernandez, The New York Band, Anibal Bravo, Conjunto Quisqueya, Olga Tañón, Gisselle, Henry Hierro y La Gran Manzana and Grupomanía.

The popularity of merengue has been increasing in Venezuela. Venezuelan Merengueros include Roberto Antonio, Miguel Moly, Natusha, Porfi Jiménez, Billo's Caracas Boys, and Los Melodicos. Merengue is also popular in the coastal city of Guayaquil in Ecuador.

The new line of merengue created in New York City has become very popular amongst younger listeners. Known as "Merengue de Mambo," its proponents include: Omega, Oro 24, Los Ficos, Los Gambinos, Alberto Flash, Mala Fe, Henry Jimenez, and Aybar.